

July 16, 1975

Dr. Seymour Lederberg
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Dear Seymour,

I wonder if you recall that about 20 years ago I had the idea that one ought to study the genetics of centrioles by looking for shaver's "second factor" from a variety of cellular sources and looking to see what happened with interspecific combinations? That idea was based on the premise that the centriole was self-replicating DNA which I guess may now go by the board.

I particularly wanted to call your attention to the enclosed article by Ohta and Iwamatsu which seems quite definitely to identify the second factor with microtubules. And meanwhile there has been no substantiation of the role of DNA in centrioles!

It still seems to me that there is a remarkable research opportunity - namely to look for the efficacy of microtubules from prokaryotic sources as initiators of egg development. And I can certainly think of much worse ways to spend a summer!

When are we ever going to see you all? Annie was just beginning to take her first steps, unaided, last week.

Yours as ever,

JL/er

encl.

See Centrioles